

In the Claims

The following is an amendment to and a complete listing of the claims which replaces all prior listings of claims in this application.

1.(currently amended) A heald frame for a weaving machine, the frame comprising two posts, two cross-members and at least one damping means, each cross-member being provided with a catching member for engaging an adjacent end of at least one heald of the frame, the at least one damping means being mounted to at least one of the cross members or at least one of the catching members, said at least one heald having first and second ends, each of said first and second ends having a compression zone and a traction zone, such that when said frame is in a stationary state and when the at least one heald is substantially rectilinear, the compression zones and traction zones are spaced relative to one another such that [[when]] the compression zone of the first end of the at least one heald engages the at least one damping means, the traction zone of the second end of the at least one heald simultaneously engages a first adjacent catching member.

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2.(previously presented) The heald frame as claimed in claim 1, wherein the at least one damping means is received in a receiver of the first end of the at least one heald, and the receiver is adapted to receive an end portion of a second adjacent catching member.

3.(previously presented) The heald frame as claimed in claim 1, wherein the at least one damping means is positioned opposite the first end of the heald relative to a filiform body of the heald.

4.(previously presented) The heald frame as claimed in claim 1, wherein at least the first end of the at least one heald has two principal limbs defining a receiver which opens in a direction towards a corresponding cross-member by way of a neck, while the second adjacent catching member includes a catching region which extends into the receiver, as well as an intermediate region that is received in the neck.

5.(previously presented) The heald frame as claimed in claim 1, wherein at least the first end of the at least one heald includes a principal limb defining, with a tooth and a return portion of the at least one heald, at least one receiving

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channel, while the second adjacent catching member has a catching region extending at least partially into the at least one receiving channel.

6.(previously presented) The heald frame as claimed in claim 1, wherein at least one of the first and second adjacent catching members is removably fixed to a corresponding cross-member by cooperative shaping of two limbs of the at least one of the first and second adjacent catching member and facing walls of an adjacent cross-member.

7.(previously presented) The heald frame as claimed in claim 1, wherein at least one of the first and second adjacent catching members is permanently fixed to an adjacent cross-member.

8.(previously presented) The heald frame as claimed in claim 1, wherein at least one of the first and second adjacent catching member is formed of at least one folded metal sheet.

9.(previously presented) The heald frame as claimed in claim 1, wherein the at least one damping means includes a damping member the profile of which is constant along the second catching member or the cross-member adjacent the second catching member.

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10.(canceled)

11.(previously presented) The heald frame as claimed in claim 1, including first and second damping means such that when the compression zone of the second end of the at least one heald engages the second damping means, the traction zone of the first end of the at least one heald engages the traction zone a second adjacent catching member.

12.(previously presented) The heald frame as claimed in claim 11, wherein the first and second damping means are mounted to separate ones of the adjacent catching members.

13.(previously presented) The heald frame as claimed in claim 11 wherein another damping means are mounted to the cross-members so as to be opposing the first and second ends of the at least one heald.

14.(currently amended) A weaving machine, the weaving machine comprising at least one heald frame, the heald frame comprising two posts, two cross-members and at least one damping means, each cross-member being provided with a catching member for engaging an adjacent end of at least one heald of the frame, said at least

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one heald having first and second ends, each of said first and second ends having a compression zone and a traction zone such that when said frame is in a stationary state and when the at least one heald is substantially rectilinear, the compression zones and traction zones being spaced relative to one another such that [[when]] the compression zone of the first end of the at least one heald engages the at least one damping means, the traction zone of the second end of the at least one heald simultaneously engages a first adjacent catching member.

15. (previously presented) The weaving machine of claim 14 including first and second damping means such that when the compression zone of the second end of the at least one heald engages the second damping means, the traction zone of the first end of the at least one heald engages the traction zone of a second adjacent catching member.

16. (previously presented) The weaving machine of claim 15 wherein the first and second damping means are mounted to separate ones of the adjacent catching members.

17. (currently amended) The weaving machine of claim [[25]] 15 wherein the first and second damping means are mounted to the

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cross-members so as to be opposing the first and second ends of
the at least one heald.